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ALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL  
REPORT.

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1946.



ALTON,  
HANTS.  
July, 1947.

To : THE ALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is my Report on this District for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The area of the District is (in acres)	...	...	65,526
The population, 1931 census (including 4,562 military)			20,455
The population estimated in 1946 (civilians only)	...		18,350
The number of inhabited houses is			5205
The Rateable value is			£147,552
The sum represented by a Penny Rate is			£596

According to the figures supplied to me by the Registrar General the, Births and Deaths are as follows :—

	Total	M	F
<i>Live Births</i> —Legitimate	374	199	175
Illegitimate	55	24	31
<i>Still Births</i> —Legitimate	5	5	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid. 1946—22.8.  
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—23.1.

*Deaths*—The total number of deaths belonging to this District was 230—of these 90 died outside my District.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	—12.5
Deaths from Puerperal causes	... Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	... 16
Deaths from Cancer	... 28
Deaths from Measles	... Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	... Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea	... Nil

Deaths over 70 years of age numbered 122—of these 58 were over 80 and 9 were over 90 years of age.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area :—

The Public Officers are :—

(1) *Medical Officer of Health*—Part-time Officer.

(2) *Chief Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor*—Whole-time Officer. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and is an Associate member of the Institute of British Engineers.

(3) *Additional Sanitary Inspector & Assistant Building Surveyor*—Whole-time Officer.

(4) *Additional Sanitary Inspector*—Whole-time Officer engaged on Housing Survey.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

*Water.* The Parishes of Four Marks, Ropley and Medstead, owing to their elevation and the depth of the water-bearing strata, normally depend on rainwater storage in underground storage tanks of from 3,700 to 5,000 gallons capacity.

Terms have been agreed with the Wey Valley Water Company for the Company to provide supplies to the Parishes of Ropley and Four Marks with assistance by the Council when necessary sanctions have been obtained.

The Herriard and Lasham Water Company have extended their supplies to the built-up area of Medstead and to Upper Wield.

The Parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden are supplied from the mains of the Herriard and Lasham Water Company.

The Parishes of Bentley, Froyle, Grayshott and Headley are, for the greater part, supplied from the mains of the Wey Valley Water Company. There has been a further extension of the mains to serve 26 properties in Headley during the year.

Under guarantees or loan assistance from this Council, the Wey Valley Water Company provide supplies in the Parishes of Binsted, Chawton, Farringdon, Kingsley, Selborne and the Herriard and Lasham Water Company in the Parish of Medstead.

Terms have been agreed with the Wey Valley Water Company for the Company to provide a supply to the Parish of Newton Valence with assistance by the Council and private individuals, when necessary sanctions have been obtained. Having been approved by the County Council the matter is now in the hands of the Minister of Health.

Post-War Schemes for the serving of all areas by piped supplies have been prepared.

Number of houses in the District	...	5,260
Number of premises provided with domestic supplies during the year		216
Number of houses having piped supplies	...	2,744
ditto within 100 yards of mains		611
ditto which will be within 100 yards of proposed Post-War mains	...	1,098
ditto not capable of being provided with piped supplies by the above schemes	...	807

(This figure will be substantially amended when the Herriard and Lasham Water Company's Post-War Schemes, affecting three Parishes, is received.)

*Drainage and Sewerage.* The Parish of Bentley is sewered, the effluent being treated by broad land irrigation. An extension has been agreed to serve the new Housing site. Schemes for the sewerage of the Parishes of Grayshott, Headley and Whitehill are in course of revision and preparation, with a view to application being made for loan sanction.

To adequately drain the 50 Temporary Houses erected at Lindford in the Parish of Whitehill, a half mile of 12 inch sewers have been laid to discharge into the Military Treatment Works at Bordon. This forms part of the general scheme for the Parish which was prepared and went into enquiry on the outbreak of War.

*Rivers and Streams.* Normal routine inspections have been maintained to prevent pollution. No outstanding cases arose during the year.

*Closet Accommodation.* There has been no change affecting closet accommodation throughout the district during the year.

*Scavenging and Salvage.* All scavenging contracts, except that regarding night soil in the Parish of Grayshott, have been terminated, the Council having undertaken direct collection of night soil, wet refuse and cesspool emptying in a defined area of the Parish of Whitehill. A house-to-house collection of salvage and tins is carried out once monthly throughout the whole of the District, fortnightly in two parishes. The collections are carried out by the Council's own vehicles and employees.

*Hop-Pickers' Accommodation.* Necessary routine inspections have been maintained. No outstanding matters arose during the year.

## **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Routine inspections have been maintained throughout the area. Complaints have been dealt with and abatement enforced.

*Sites for Moveable Dwellings.* Occupation of such sites is controlled under licences.

*Government Evacuation Scheme.* The District has been used extensively for the billeting of Civilian evacuees under the private arrangement scheme and for the reception of organised groups from the bombed areas of London, Portsmouth and Southampton. Most families have left the District throughout the year and many houses have returned to normal use with beneficial results.

*Housing. Squatters.* Squatters have occupied redundant W.D. buildings; forty such premises have been altered and adapted to provide reasonable privacy, light, ventilation, water supplies, suitable sanitary accommodation and lighting. These camps are regularly scavenged for domestic refuse, and, where necessary, collections of night soil are undertaken.

*Overcrowding.* Overcrowding, where met with, is dealt with to bring about improvements and is taken into consideration in the allocation of new dwellings erected by the Council.

*Housing Survey.* A standard of fitness for rural houses was formulated for general acceptance throughout the County and the classification of houses adopted is that recommended by the Report of the Joint County Committee.

Inspections under survey commenced in this District on the 27th February, 1945, and were continued on a part time basis until the 27th June, 1945, when it had to be discontinued owing to increased duties under Civil Building Licensing. It was, however, continued full time without interruption on the 15th January, 1946.

*Milk Supply.* Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds have been carried out. Milk Production has increased throughout the District and new producers have been added to the register, the premises having been brought up to the required standard.

*Meat and Other Foods.* In connection with condemned food-stuffs, co-operation with the Ministry of Food Salvage Officers has led to the salvage and use of foodstuffs for animal feeding and other purposes.

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The year on the whole has been a good one, measles and whooping cough being the most prevalent diseases.

There were 30 cases of whooping cough and 30 cases of measles.

There were a few sporadic cases of scarlet fever, 9 being notified, all of a mild type.

There was one case of diphtheria in a child that had not been immunized.

The majority of School children have been inoculated against Diphtheria.

		Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	9	9	None
Diphtheria	...	1	1	None
Enteric Fever	...	None	None	None
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	2	None
Pneumonia	...	5	4	None

*Cancer.* There were 28 deaths from cancer, 14 males and 14 females.

Age Distribution	Males	Females
50	4	6
60	4	4
70	6	4

Age Groups	3	4	5	10	15	20
Scarlet Fever	—	4	2	1	2	—
Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	—	—

*Prevention of Blindness.* One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified.

*Tuberculosis.* New cases and mortality during 1946 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15	6	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	9	1	3	2	3	—	—

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1935.

*Scabies.* During 1946, 16 families, comprising 39 adults and 26 children of school age, and 14 under 5 years of age, comprising 84 in all, were treated for scabies at the Joint Isolation Hospital.

I should like to add that your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bennett, has rendered very valuable services during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CURRER WILLIAMS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



